

West Nile Virus Newsletter

Zoonotic Disease Program, Washington State Department of Health

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Volume 4, Issue 8

Purpose

To keep our partners and other interested entities informed about West Nile virus (WNV)

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National, regional, and state surveillance update

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More Idahoans expected to contract WNV

Army says: Port Orchard WNV report false alarm

Condor chicks die of West Nile in Idaho

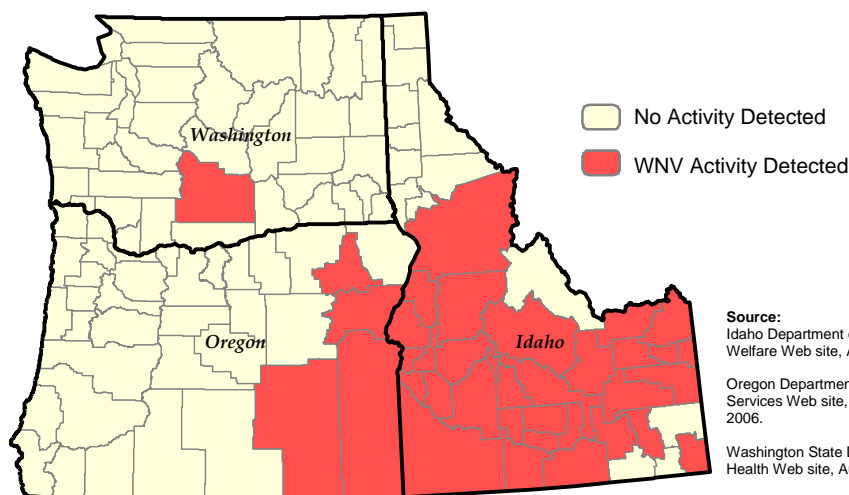
"Ask Jay" answers: What do I need to consider before adding fish to my pond to control mosquito larvae?

Journals articles from CDC's *Emerging Infectious Diseases*

Avoid summer pests

View the [August 10, 2006](#) WNV Newsletter

West Nile virus activity in the northwest, 2006



WNV positive in the northwest

[Washington](#): 1 horse

[Idaho](#): 366 humans, 224 horses, 99 birds, mosquito pools detected in 5 counties

[Oregon](#): 10 humans, 10 horse, 7 birds, 4 mosquito pools

WNV found in Yakima horse, first WA case in 2006

Washington State Department of Agriculture, New Release, August 18, 2006

OLYMPIA – West Nile virus (WNV) has been confirmed in an eight-year-old quarter horse in Yakima, the state Department of Agriculture announced today. The horse started showing signs of central nervous system problems on Aug. 11.

The positive test result was reported late Thursday by the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in Pullman. The mare, which had not been vaccinated for WNV, had not left the Terrace Heights premises during the current mosquito season.

"This is the first confirmed case this year of a horse contracting West Nile virus in Washington," said Dr. Leonard Eldridge, state veterinarian.

"The best way to protect a horse from West Nile infection is vaccination," Eldridge said. The vaccine requires two doses three to six weeks apart, with immunity achieved five weeks after the second vaccine. An annual booster shot should be considered prior to the start of the mosquito season.

Read the complete Washington State Department of Agriculture news release at <http://agr.wa.gov/News/2006/06-34.htm>.

Web Resources

Washington State
Department of Health
www.doh.wa.gov/wnv

Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile

US Geological Survey &
CDC ArboNET maps
<http://westnilemaps.usgs.gov/index.html>

Washington State
University Cooperative
Extension
www.wnv.wsu.edu

Washington State
Department of
Agriculture
www.agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/Diseases/WestNileVirus/default.htm

Northwest Links

Idaho Department of
Health & Welfare
www.westnile.idaho.gov

Oregon Department of
Human Services
<http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/acd/diseases/wnile/survey.shtml>

British Columbia Center
for Disease Control
<http://www.bccdc.org/content.php?item=183>

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Contact Ben Hamilton
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Idaho governor approves WNV disaster declarations

Source: *KTVB.com, KBCITV.com, and phd4.state.id.us*

Governor Jim Risch has approved disaster declarations for Ada and now Canyon County because of the current West Nile virus outbreak in Idaho.

The latest declaration came on the 13th after meeting with Canyon County Commissioner Matt Beebe and the county's mosquito abatement director Ed Burnett.

"I am satisfied that Canyon County's request for state assistance is justified," said Risch. "There is a need for additional resources to combat the West Nile Virus that is greater than what the county can provide. The declaration I signed today will allow the expenditure of state money to assist Canyon County in their battle against the disease."

"With the assurance of state assistance we will determine the areas in the county where additional treatment is needed. Once we know where the hotspots are located we can put together a plan and a budget to figure out what state and county resources are needed," said Beebe.

The counties are being encouraged to work together. Ada County Commissioner Judy Peavey-Derr said, "Should we ever need to consider the aerial spraying option, I believe it would be most effective if neighboring counties participated as well. Otherwise, we're only treating a portion of the problem."

Experts say pesticide spraying is safe in Idaho; Virus confirmed in squirrels

By Kathleen Kreller, *The Idaho Statesman*, August 23, 2006

Ada County resumed spraying an insecticide from airplanes Tuesday night to kill mosquitoes and help slow the spread of West Nile virus infections in humans, horses, squirrels and birds.



The controversial spray plan has spurred hundreds of calls and e-mails to Ada County agencies and the Idaho Statesman from people who worry about a toxic chemical being sprayed over their homes, farms and businesses. Canyon County officials may unveil their own plan today to spray mosquitoes there.

But independent experts, physicians and toxicologists interviewed in the last week say Ada County is accurate in its claim that use of the insecticide Dibrom in small quantities is deadly to adult mosquitoes but relatively harmless to people, pets and other animals and insects. Those same experts say people who are chemically sensitive or worried about health impacts can take a few common-sense precautions.

People are right to be concerned about the health and environmental impacts of Dibrom; no expert says that pesticides are absolutely safe. But fears about Dibrom and the Ada County spray plan have been fueled by misinterpreted studies and data on the Internet, officials say.

National WNV Statistics for 2006

As of August 22nd forty-five states/districts have reported some type of West Nile virus activity.

Humans

Total human case-patients: 581

Patients with meningitis and/or encephalitis: 236

Total human deaths: 19

Presumptively viremic blood donors: 85

Avian

Total dead bird cases reported positive: 1531

Number of corvids reported positive: 1289

States/districts reporting positive dead birds: 32

Veterinary

Total number of veterinary cases (1 squirrel, remainder are equines) reported positive: 316

States/districts reporting positive veterinary cases: 24

Mosquito Pools

Total number of positive mosquito pools: 4489

States reporting positive mosquito pools: 34

Most frequent mosquito pool species reported positive:

1. *Culex tarsalis*
2. *Culex pipiens*
3. *Culex pipiens-restuans* (mixed)

Sentinels

Total number of sentinel infections reported positive: 247

States/districts reporting positive sentinels: 9

Paul Wax, a toxicologist in Phoenix with the American College of Medical Toxicology, said Dibrom is a safe way to fight mosquitoes and West Nile virus.

"This sort of pesticide doesn't cause long-term effects and that's why it's an effective pesticide against mosquitoes," said Wax. "The West Nile virus is a dangerous virus, and people can literally die from it. There needs to be some sort of abatement."

Experts interviewed say that Ada County commissioners who authorized the county mosquito-abatement crews to implement their spraying plan are taking a reasonable risk to combat a known threat.

"Every day we wait on this more people are infected," Commissioner Fred Tilman said. "Our focus is to save lives."

Virus confirmed in squirrels

Dr. Mark Drew, a wildlife veterinarian with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, said tests have confirmed West Nile infections in squirrels in southwest Idaho.

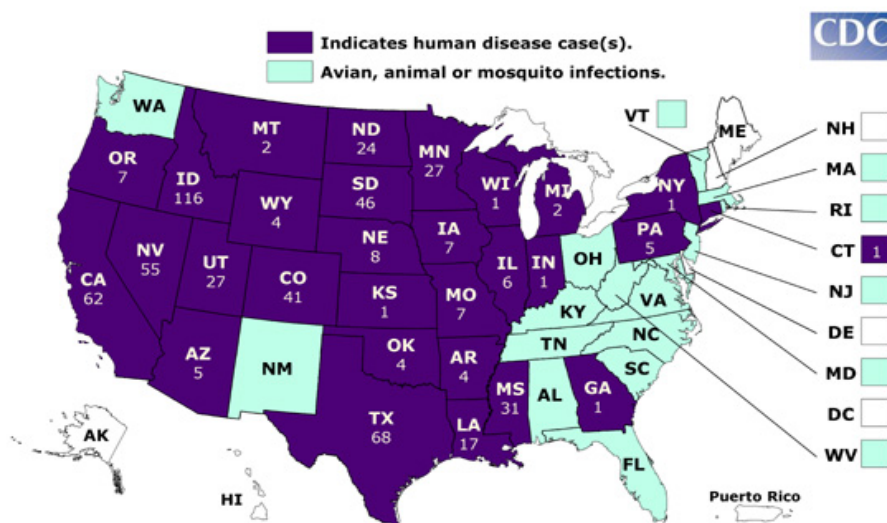
Of the squirrels tested, Drew said, about 80 percent had West Nile. Others had become paralyzed from pellet guns, cars, cat bites and accidents, he said.

Across the southern portion of the state, people reported seeing squirrels with paralyzed hind legs and unusual behavior. Many sickened and died or were euthanized.

Continue reading this article, which discusses the safety of Dibrom, at <http://www.idahostatesman.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060823/NEWS01/608230351/1001/NEWS>.

West Nile virus activity in the United States, 2006

Surveillance findings reported to CDC, August 22, 2006



National maps and data available at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/surv&control.htm>.

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DOH Communicable
Disease Epidemiology
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877-539-4344

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First West Nile virus case in sage grouse in Oregon

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, News Release, August 21, 2006

SALEM – Three sage grouse found dead in Malheur County have been confirmed to be infected with West Nile Virus, the first diagnosis of the disease in sage grouse in Oregon.



The dead sage grouse were reported by a private landowner near Burns Junction and investigated by ODFW and U.S. Geological Survey biologists, who found three fresh sage grouse mortalities, more than 60 decomposed sage grouse and one sick northern harrier. The three sage grouse samples and the northern harrier were tested at the USGS's National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wis. and confirmed positive for the disease.

A team of biologists from ODFW and USGS are now monitoring the area for additional mortalities and collecting blood samples from live sage grouse to test for the presence of WNV antibodies. The sage grouse mortality appears to be localized to an area near Burns Junction at this time.

Read the complete article at <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2006/aug/023.asp>.

Washington environmental surveillance summary, 2006

Reported to DOH as of August 23, 2006

County	Horses*		Birds**		Sentinel Flocks***		Mosquito Pools****	
	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive
Adams	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Asotin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Benton	2	0	3	0	235	0	191	0
Chelan	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Clallam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clark	1	0	0	0	0	0	29	0
Columbia	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	0	0	7	0	0	0	70	0
Douglas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ferry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Franklin	1	0	2	0	0	0	80	0
Garfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grant	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Grays Harbor	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Island	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
King	0	0	17	0	0	0	1	0
Kitsap	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kittitas	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Klickitat	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Lewis	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mason	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Okanogan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pend Oreille	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pierce	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	0
San Juan	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skagit	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Skamania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snohomish	1	0	27	0	0	0	36	0
Spokane	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Stevens	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Thurston	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0
Wahkiakum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walla Walla	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Whatcom	1	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Whitman	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Yakima	2	1	3	0	49	0	252	0
Totals	14	1	188	0	284	0	659	0

*A total of 17 horses have been tested for West Nile virus. An additional 3 horse tested negative, but were not included in the table because county/state information was not available. WADDL Report: August 22, 2006.

**A total of 190 birds have been tested for West Nile virus; 1 specimen unsuitable for testing, 1 specimen was from out-of-state. WADDL Report: August 18, 2006.

*** Sentinel Chicken Sera tested by Benton MCD Report: August 8, 2006.

**** Pools tested by USACHPPM-West Report: July 27, 2006, Benton MCD Report: August 8, 2006, Franklin County MCD Report August 8, 2006, Clark County MCD August 17, 2006, and Cowlitz County MCD August 8, 2006.

View the WNV Avian Mortality Report at

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/Zoo/WNV/Newsletters/dbreport/dbreport.pdf>.